APP 1257

Appl. No.: 09/775,000
Amdt. Dated: April 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: November 3, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-8 and 10-11 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a). More specifically claim 1 has been rejected as being obvious over United States Patent No. 6,653,933 to Raschke at al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,763,247 to Hollstrom. Claim 6 has been rejected as unpatentable over Raschke and Hollstrom further in view of United States Patent No. 6,757,732 to Sollee. Claim 7 has been rejected over Raschke, Hollstsom and Sollee further in view of United States Patent No. 6,247,017 to Martin. Claims 8 and 10 have been rejected as being unpatentable as obvious in view of Hollstrom and Sollee. And claim 11 has been rejected as obvious in view of Hollstrom, Sollee and Martin. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusions.

Applicants' invention is directed at communications between a smart appliance/device on a local smart appliance network and a global agent/server external to the local smart appliance network. Typically, for a global server to send an instruction message to a smart appliance, the global server must address the message using the smart appliance's actual address, embedding the address in the message. The message is then routed from the global server to the smart appliance using this actual address. (Specification, page 3, line 17 to page 4, line 6; page 12, lines 13-17). Applicants' invention overcomes the need for a server to use actual addresses and uses a modified version of the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) that allows a server to communicate with a smart appliance using a general unique global network address rather than an actual address.

Specifically, as recited by amended claim 1, applicants' invention is a global appliance network system comprising a global server and a smart appliance on a local network, the smart appliance having an actual network address and a general unique global network address that can map to the actual network address. The global server communicates with the smart appliance using a general addressing scheme. Under this scheme the global server sends an instruction message to the smart appliance by addressing the message with the smart appliance's general unique global network address. The general addressing scheme routes this message from the global server through a communications network to the smart appliance based on the general unique global network address. In other words, each hop through the communications network examines the general unique global network address and based on this address, forwards the message towards the smart appliance. (Specification, page 14, line 17 to page 18, line 8; Figure 3).

The applicants' agree with the Examiner that Raschke does not teach or suggest: (1) the use of a general unique global network address that can map to the actual network

address; (2) using a general addressing scheme identifying in a single message both the general unique global network address and the instruction to be performed on the smart appliance identified by that address; and, (3) wherein the general addressing scheme routes the single message from the global server through the communications network to the smart appliance based on the general unique global network address.

The Examiner asserts that Hollstrom overcomes these deficiencies in Raschke. Applicants respectfully disagree. The device in Hollstrom is a portable telecommunications apparatus, i.e, a mobile phone or cell-phone. The idea behind the device is to permit the user to download wireless access protocol (WAP) web-pages into a WAP browser and also to control one or more local devices through one or more physical interfaces in the mobile phone. The embodiment in FIG. 1 depicts the control of a television set 40 through an infrared link 15, the control of a printer/fax copier 30 through a Bluetooth or other short distance RF link 32, and control of a digital camera 50 through an rs-232 cable 52. The user of the mobile phone is able to control these external devices because a WAP server 340 in the external device sends information to the WAP client 240 in the mobile phone. For example, upon connection of a mobile phone to a digital camera the camera sends information to the phone to enable the viewing of images taken by the camera on the screen of the phone. The user of the phone can then send these images through a GSM link to the Internet.

The system in Hollstrom is substantially different than the present invention which is concerned with the control of a device in a global network appliance system by a remote user. Hollstrom is concerned with the control of a device locally connected to a mobile handset through a radio frequency (RF) connection (Bluetooth link), rs-232 (serial) cable or infrared link. The user in Hollstrom is not sending instructions to a remote device having a general unique global network address that can map to the actual network address locally; (2) using a general addressing scheme identifying in a single message both the general unique global network address and the instruction to be performed on the smart appliance identified by that address; and, (3) wherein the general addressing scheme routes the single message from the global server through the communications network to the smart appliance based on the general unique global network address. Hollstrom is simply not relevant prior art. The section in Hollstrom cited by the Examiner (col. 4, lines 26-34) deals with the difference between the mobile phone communicating with the Internet through link 22 as opposed to communicating with one of the local devices, i.e., the printer, the television or the digital camera, through the respective local link, i.e., the Bluetooth link, the infrared link or the rs-232 cable. This section has nothing to do with translating a general unique global network

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address into a local address. There are no general unique global network addresses for the external devices in Hollstrom.
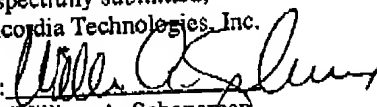
The error of the Examiner in reading the teaching of the Hollstrom reference likewise affects the rejection of claims 6, 7, 8-10 and 11 as the rejection of each of these claims is dependent upon Hollstrom. With regard to claim 6, Sollee does not overcome the deficiencies in Raschke or Hollstrom nor does Sollee teach or suggest the use of a modified Session Initiation Protocol for a general addressing scheme. Sollee simply describes the use of SIP in unmodified form.

With regard to claim 7, Martin does disclose a network application of LDAP it does not overcome the deficiencies in Raschke, Hollstrom or Sollee.   With regard to claims 8 and 10, Sollee does not overcome the deficiency in Hollstrom set forth above. Hollstrom does not teach or suggest a one-step location method for remotely operating a smart appliance in a local smart appliance network from a global agent in a global network. Hollstrom discloses the control of local devices connected via one or more wired or wireless links to a mobile handset (cell-phone) in which the local devices send information to the handset on how to be controlled using the wireless access protocol (WAP). With regard to claim 11, Martin does not overcome the deficiencies of Hollstrom and Sollee although it does discuss a network application of LDAP.

Applicants respectfully believe that claims 1, 6-8 and 10-11 of this application are in condition to be passed to issue. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of these claims, in view of the above discussion, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

A three-month extension of time from the original due date is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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